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| **The Bill of Rights was intended to limit the power of government. Since the government runs the public schools, they must follow the First Amendment and respect freedom of speech.** | **Freedom of speech is not an absolute right. The government, at all levels, must take away this right in order to protect other citizens – especially students at school.** |
| **In order for a school to function, there must be rules prohibiting behavior that violates the school’s educational mission. School discipline is a part of children’s development as good citizens.** | **Sometimes the government needs to be able to make the decision to maintain order and safety rather than allow people to express their individual rights.** |
| **The Des Moines School District did not completely restrict freedom of expression. In the past, the school even allowed students to wear political campaign buttons during election season. Black armbands should not be allowed, however.** | **The wearing of armbands was a silent expression of opinions on the Vietnam War. There was no evidence that it was disrupting other students from learning.** |
| **Allowing students to break a school rule regarding the wearing of armbands will lead us down a slippery slope. Students will see this as a reason to break other school rules as well.** | **Schools are for learning, and real learning includes debate of controversial issues. Thus, interacting with students who have different viewpoints is part of the educational process. Students should be able to voice their opinions!** |